Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Minor in Sociology. At least 36 semester credit hours of sociology coursework are required to fulfill a Sociology major. The 36-hour total is considered a minimum, and students are encouraged to deepen and broaden their grasp of their major through careful allocation of their elective semester credit hours.

The Sociology degree requires students to complete at least 6 semester credit hours of support work. These courses, which require advance approval from advisors, should serve to introduce students to other social sciences in addition to those entailed in the coursework within students’ major discipline.

Internship in Sociology

As part of the COLFA Signature Experience, the Sociology Department encourages its students to participate in an internship. Internship entails supervised experience, usually within selected organizations in the San Antonio area. The majors are asked to find their internship placements. The internship coordinator of the Department of Sociology approves placement. Students majoring in nonsocial science disciplines are welcome to participate but should consult with their faculty advisors regarding the role of the internship within their own degree programs. Further information can be obtained from the internship coordinator.

Department Honors

The Department of Sociology, through its Department Honors program, provides the opportunity for advanced study under close faculty supervision to those students who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship.

Selection for honors designation is based on academic performance and recommendation by discipline faculty. To be eligible for the program, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall at UTSA and a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in Sociology at UTSA. Minimum grade point averages must be maintained for students to receive the approval of the Department Honors Committee and the Sociology faculty. Students applying for Department Honors are expected to enroll in the appropriate honors thesis course during their final two semesters. The supervising faculty sponsor and another department faculty member must approve the completed thesis. Students interested in this program should contact the department’s faculty undergraduate advisor for additional information.

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, including the Core Curriculum requirements, is 120. Thirty-nine of the total semester credit hours required for the degree must be at the upper-division level.

All candidates for this degree must fulfill the Core Curriculum requirements and the degree requirements, which are listed below.

Core Curriculum Requirements (42 semester credit hours)

Students seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology must fulfill University Core Curriculum requirements in the same manner as other students. The course listed below will satisfy both degree requirements and Core Curriculum requirements; however, if this course is taken to satisfy both requirements, then students may need to take an additional course in order to meet the minimum number of semester credit hours required for this degree. For a complete listing of courses that satisfy the Core Curriculum requirements, see below.

SOC 1013 Introduction to Sociology should be used to satisfy the core requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Core Curriculum Component Area Requirements (http://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/bachelorsdegreeregulations/degreerequirements/corecurriculumcomponentareaarequirements)

Gateway Course

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology must successfully complete the following Gateway Course in no more than two attempts. A student who is unable to successfully complete this course within two attempts, including dropping the course with a grade of “W” or taking an equivalent course at another institution, will be required to change his or her major.

SOC 1013 Introduction to Sociology

Degree Requirements

A. Sociology major courses

1. Required courses. It is strongly recommended that theory and research methods requirements be completed by the first semester of the junior year.

SOC 1013 Introduction to Sociology 3
SOC 3343 Classical Sociological Theory 3
or SOC 3353 Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 3323 Introduction to Social Research 3
SOC 3373 Qualitative Research Methods 3
or SOC 3393 Quantitative Research Methods 3

2. Select 24 additional semester credit hours of Sociology electives as approved by the student's advisor. Students are encouraged to take a broad variety of courses.

B. Single language other than English

Select 6 semester credit hours in a single language other than English 6

C. Electives

Select 36 semester credit hours of electives. In fulfillment of this requirement, majors are encouraged to take at least 6 semester credit hours of upper-division coursework in disciplines that support the study of Sociology.

Total Credit Hours 78

Course Sequence Guide for B.A. Degree in Sociology

This course sequence guide is designed to assist students in completing their UTSA undergraduate Sociology degree requirements. This is merely a guide and students must satisfy other requirements of this catalog and meet with their academic advisor for individualized degree plans. Progress within this guide depends upon such factors as course availability, individual student academic preparation, student time management, work obligations, and individual financial considerations. Students may choose to take courses during Summer terms to reduce course loads during long semesters.
B.A. in Sociology – Four-Year Academic Plan

First Year

Fall
AIS 1203 Academic Inquiry and Scholarship (core) 3
HIS 1043, 1053, or 2053 United States History: Pre-Columbus to Civil War Era, or United States History: Civil War Era to Present, or Texas History (core) 3
SOC 1013 Introduction to Sociology (core and major) 3
WRC 1013 Freshman Composition I (Q) (core) 3
Mathematics core 3

Spring
HIS 1043, 1053, or 2053 United States History: Pre-Columbus to Civil War Era, or United States History: Civil War Era to Present, or Texas History (core) 3
WRC 1023 Freshman Composition II (Q) (core) 3
Free elective 3
Free elective 3
Life & Physical Sciences core 3

Second Year

Fall
ECO 2003, 2013, or 2023 Economic Principles and Issues, or Introductory Macroeconomics, or Introductory Microeconomics (core) 3
SOC 3343 or 3353 Classical Sociological Theory (or Contemporary Sociological Theory) 3
Free elective 3
Life & Physical Sciences core 3
Creative Arts core 3

Spring
SOC 3323 Introduction to Social Research 3
Free elective 3
Free elective 3
Language, Philosophy, & Culture core 3
Upper-division free elective 3

Third Year

Fall
POL 1013 Introduction to American Politics (core) 3
SOC 3373 or 3393 Qualitative Research Methods (or Quantitative Research Methods) 3
Foreign language (semester I) 3-4
SOC elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3

Spring
POL 1133 or 1213 Texas Politics and Society (core) 3
Foreign language (semester II) 3-4
Upper-division free elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3
Upper-division SOC elective 3

Fourth Year

Fall
Upper-division SOC elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3
SOC elective 3

Spring
Free elective (to meet 120 hour minimum) 1-3
SOC elective 3
Upper-division free elective 3
Upper-division SOC elective 3
Upper-division SOC elective 3

Total Credit Hours: 120.0

Minor in Sociology

All students pursuing a Minor in Sociology must complete 21 semester credit hours, 12 of which must be at the upper-division level.

A. Required courses
SOC 1013 Introduction to Sociology 3
SOC 3343 Classical Sociological Theory 3
or SOC 3353 Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 3323 Introduction to Social Research 3

B. Select 12 semester credit hours of Sociology electives 12

Total Credit Hours: 21

To declare a Minor in Sociology, obtain advice, or seek approval of substitutions for course requirements, students should consult their academic advisor.

Sociology (SOC) Courses

SOC 1013. Introduction to Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 1301)
Introduces the study of human groups, the relations of individuals to groups, and the process of becoming a group member and functioning in a group setting. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. (Formerly titled “Introduction to the Study of Society.”).

SOC 1043. Introduction to Public Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Introduces the discipline of public health. Covers a variety of disciplines to the basic tenets of public health. Provides a history of public health, an introduction to the five core disciplines (Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Social and Behavioral Health, and Health Policy & Management). Also covers the role of public health in global society. (Same as PUB 1113. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 1043 and PUB 1113.).

SOC 2013. Social Problems. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 1306)
Examines major contemporary social problems and their causes and consequences. Topics may include poverty, racism, sexism, deviance and crime, drug and alcohol dependence, the urban crisis, overpopulation, and war. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.
SOC 2023. Social Context of Drug Use. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = SOCI 2340)
Explores the use and abuse of mind-altering substances within society. Topics of study may include historical treatments of drug use, drug treatment and recovery interventions, the global magnitude of contemporary drug problems, and the problematic nature and consequences of drug legislation and enforcement. May be applied toward the Core Curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences. (Formerly titled "Drugs in Society.").

SOC 2063. Special Topics in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
An organized course offering the opportunity for a specialized topic at the lower division level that is available through the regular course offerings. Special Topics may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor's degree.

SOC 3013. Social Stratification. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines theory and research pertaining to inequalities of power, prestige, and economic privilege. Major emphasis upon inequality and social mobility in the United States.

SOC 3043. Race and Ethnic Relations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the dominant-subordinate relations in world societies, with major emphasis on the United States. Models of assimilation, colonial and class society, and consequences for minority and majority populations may be examined.

SOC 3053. Deviance and Difference. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Analyzes the forms of deviance and consideration of social/political trends toward difference. An examination of theories may include: biological, analytic, labeling, functionalist, culture conflict, radical, and poststructuralist.

SOC 3063. Collective Behavior. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013, or consent of instructor. Focuses on case studies and associated theory dealing with various forms of collective behavior ranging from spontaneous events to organized mass movements.

SOC 3083. Social Change and Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Presents principal models and theories of social transformation applied to examples of societal change. Topics may include consideration of master trends such as rationalization, industrialization, and bureaucratization, and the expansion and contraction of global interconnectedness.

SOC 3093. Religion and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on religious institutions and movements in the United States with comparative data from other countries. Topics may include the relationship of religious institutions to social stratification, economic institutions, and political and social change.

SOC 3113. Criminology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the nature, prevalence, and impact of different types of legal violations, including street crime, organized crime, political crime, and white-collar crime. Includes treatment of social and legal responses to crime.

SOC 3163. Families in Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the modern family, structures and functions, variant patterns and the influence of the broader society in producing family change. Contemporary and continuing issues are covered in the context of theory and research. Topics may include variability in childhood socialization, family violence, changing gender roles, marriage, divorce and remarriage, alternative family structures, and the aging family. (Formerly SOC 2053. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3163 and SOC 2053.) (Formerly titled "Marriage and Family.").

SOC 3193. The Sociology of Work and Occupations. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013, or consent of instructor. Explores occupational structures in selected societies; the relationship between occupations and economic rewards, lifestyles, and worldview; and determinants of work satisfaction.

SOC 3203. Gerontology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the historical and cross-cultural differences in the status of the elderly in society. Includes interaction of the elderly with social institutions, and policy implications of the demographic shift toward an aging population in the United States.

SOC 3213. Medical Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines social factors in the cause and distribution of disease; relationships between patients and medical professionals; the contribution of lay belief to health, illness, treatment, and recovery; the organization of health-care delivery; and the disparities in the distribution of medical resources.

SOC 3223. Population Dynamics and Demographic Techniques. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Introduces the common methods, techniques, and models employed by demographers. Topics may include demographic data sources, introduction to life table techniques; construction, standardization, and decomposition of rates; measures of concentration and diversity; and population growth projections. Students will become familiar with microcomputer programs for demographic analysis. (Formerly titled "Demographic Techniques.").

SOC 3253. The Individual and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the major theories dealing with the effects of culture and social structure on the development and functioning of the personality and the self.

SOC 3263. Latinas in U.S. Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Focuses on women of Latino descent in the United States with a comparative emphasis on the experiences of Texas Latinas relative to those residing elsewhere in the Southwest. Topics may include: historical presence in the Southwest; patriarchy and familism; labor and employment issues; immigration and border issues; political involvement and feminist vision; artistic, cultural and intellectual expression. (Same as WS 3953. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3263 and WS 3953 when topic is the same.).

SOC 3283. Poverty. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States and selected other societies. An examination of social programs designed to combat poverty.

SOC 3293. Sociology of Gender. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Explores the nature of gender roles in our own and other societies. Consideration of how people learn gender roles and the outcomes of this learning for individuals, families, and societies. Alternatives to conventional gender roles. (Formerly titled "Gender Roles.").

SOC 3323. Introduction to Social Research. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013. Introduction to the philosophy of science and the logic of research design. Examines a variety of social research designs including experiments, survey research, content analysis, and historical analysis. Course emphasizes techniques related to information gathering, basic data analysis, and reporting findings. (Formerly titled "Research Methods in Sociology.").
SOC 3343. Classical Sociological Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013. Examines the transition from social philosophy
to sociology, with special emphasis on the work of Karl Marx, Emile
Durkheim and Max Weber. The foundational theories and concepts in
sociology are addressed, with attention also given to the application of
to longstanding and current social issues. (Formerly SOC 3153.
Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3343 and SOC 3153.)

SOC 3353. Contemporary Sociological Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 1013. Examines contemporary paradigms in
sociological theory (e.g., functionalism, neo-Marxism, phenomenology,
and feminism), and current debates over the state of theory. Attention is
also given to the linkages between theory and research. (Formerly SOC
3183. Credit cannot be earned for both SOC 3353 and SOC 3183.)

SOC 3373. Qualitative Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: SOC 3323. Introduces the philosophy of science and
research design, including participant observation, in-depth interviews,
oral history, and focus groups through field research. The course
provides opportunities for developing qualitative research skills while
focusing on issues and problems common to these methods.

SOC 3393. Quantitative Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of the Core Curriculum requirement in
mathematics, SOC 1013, and SOC 3323. Application of
conceptualization and operationalization in the quantitative analysis of a
variety of sociological subjects. Use of elementary measures of central
tendency and dispersion, crosstabulations, and linear model procedures
to evaluate relationships among variables; problems of descriptions
and inference. Includes the use of standard computer packages and
secondary analysis of data. (Formerly SOC 3313. Credit cannot be
earned for both SOC 3313 and SOC 3393.)

SOC 3413. Sociology of the Mexican American Community. (3-0) 3
Credit Hours.
Focuses on contemporary issues regarding Mexican American
communities. Topics of discussion include family structure, gender roles,
border issues and political power. Comparison with other minorities and
the majority group will allow discussion of variant community patterns.
(Same as MAS 3413. Credit cannot be earned for both MAS 3413 and
SOC 3413.) (Formerly titled “Mexican American Family.”)

SOC 3423. Mass Media in Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines media production and its role in the economy; the construction
of media meaning, signification, and ideology; and the role of the
audience in making sense of messages. Larger issues of societal power
will be treated, along with an examination of alternative media.

SOC 3433. Mexican Immigration and U.S. Society. (3-0) 3 Credit
Hours.
Focuses on the growth and development of the Mexican population in
the United States and controversies around Mexican immigration, both
legal and undocumented. Uses a sociological perspective to present a
historical analysis of Mexican migration to the United States, theoretical
explanations of migrations, and the social implications of these issues.

SOC 3463. Sociology of Sport and Leisure. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the social meanings of play and leisure in advanced industrial
societies. Emphasis will be on the origins, structure, and function of these
phenomena in the United States, with major emphasis on sport as an
institution.

SOC 3503. Sociology of Education. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Explores education as an institution that affects and is affected by the
larger social structure. Topics may include the role of schools in society;
connections between schooling, stratification and the economy; gender
and ethnic differences in achievement; and social and cultural contexts of
learning.

SOC 3513. Children and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the evolution of concepts of childhood over time. Topics may
include theories of child development, cultural and social influences in
child raising, the effects of affluence and poverty on children, children in
postmodern societies, and child socialization in different cultures.

SOC 3543. Data Management in Public Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Provides an introduction to data management for research projects
in public health using microcomputers. Topics include design of data
collection forms, data entry, computer managed documentation and
statistical computing using SPSS/SAS. (Same as PUB 2113. Credit
cannot be earned for both SOC 3543 and PUB 2113.)

SOC 4023. Violence and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Examines and assesses the major social science perspectives and
theories that attempt to explain why violence occurs in society. (Formerly
SSC 3203. Credit cannot be earned both for SOC 4023 and SSC 3203.)

SOC 4043. Global Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Covers the field of global health, particularly the serious health problems
facing developing world populations. The course begins with an
introduction to the global burden of disease and then examines the
complex social, economic, political, environmental, and biological
factors that structure the origins, consequences and possible treatments
of disease. Provides an introductory survey of the basic issues and
initiatives in contemporary international public health, and develops
student awareness of the socioeconomic and cultural complexity of
health problems in developing nations.

SOC 4053. Health Care System. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Covers the complexities of health care organization and finance and
presents a general overview of how the U.S. health care systems work
and how the major components within the system fit together. Covers
basic structures and operations of the U.S. health system—from its
historical origins and resources, to its individual services, cost, and
quality. Compares and contrasts the U.S. health care system with other
health care systems around the world.

SOC 4073. Social and Behavioral Theories in Public Health. (3-0) 3
Credit Hours.
Examines the fundamental social and behavioral theories that drive
research and practice in public health. The course covers a number of
social and behavioral theories commonly used in public health education
interventions at the individual, group, and community levels.

SOC 4083. Behavioral Epidemiology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Provides an introduction to the social/behavioral sciences in public
health, basic behavioral measurement methods, and basic knowledge of
epidemiologic application in the area of social and behavioral science.
The course will stress the relationship of human behavior to disease, and
ways in which the social/behavioral sciences differ from epidemiology
with respect to approaches to measurement, terminology, and analytic
methods. In addition, the course will examine the literature, and explore
in-depth and quantify the determinants of behavior that are risk factors
for several chronic and infectious disorders. (Same as PUB 3413. Credit
cannot be earned for both SOC 4083 and PUB 3413.)
SOC 4433. Culture and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Explores the social significance of cultural production, including the relationships between art, consciousness, the economy, and history. Themes examined may include the social production of art, art and ideology, the problem of artistic reception, and art movements and cultural resistance. Topics include art and culture in minority social movements, the relation between high and low culture, and cultural conflict over art.

SOC 4683. Health Disparities. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
The main purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of how racial/ethnic, social, economic, demographic and gender factors contribute to disparities in health and health care in the United States.

SOC 4853. Special Studies in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree. (Formerly SOC 4953. Credit may be earned for both SOC 4853 and SOC 4953 but may not exceed 6 semester credit hours combined.).

SOC 4863. Topics in Sociology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An organized course offering the opportunity for a specialized topic not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Topics may be repeated for credit when topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4911. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

SOC 4923. Public Health Study Abroad. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
The purpose of this course is to provide students greater understanding of global health issues. The study abroad program focuses on health care and public health in different international settings and provides students with a unique opportunity to integrate direct academic learning and field experience in public health. The program involves attending class room lectures in public health and interacting with local public health officials in understanding how health care system is responding to the health needs of its population. This course will satisfy 3 hours of the Public Health Internship requirement under the Sociology degree.

SOC 4933. Internship in Sociology. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of SOC 3343 or SOC 3353 and SOC 3373 or SOC 3393 and consent of internship coordinator. Provided as part of the COLFA Signature Experience and offers supervised work experience relevant to sociology within selected organizations and agencies. Internships selected should be relevant to previous coursework. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through this internship.

SOC 4936. Internship in Sociology. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Completion of SOC 3343 or SOC 3353 and SOC 3373 or SOC 3393 and consent of internship coordinator. Provided as part of the COLFA Signature Experience and offers supervised work experience relevant to sociology within selected organizations and agencies. Internships selected should be relevant to previous coursework. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through this internship.

SOC 4993. Honors Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Enrollment limited to candidates for Honors in Sociology during the last two semesters. Supervised research and preparation of an honors thesis. May be repeated once with advisor’s approval.